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Sent: Tuesday, April 09, 2013 1:41 PM
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Subject: MOSES Update - April 2013

Collective Bargaining Preparation
Endorsement of Legislative Candidates
HB 59
MOSES Inspectors
OSHA Protection for State Employees
Public Relations Stories
Health and Welfare Correction
Open Enrollment
SERV Opportunities
MEETING LOCATION
TODAY - APRIL 9th - Mazzeo's - PITTSFIELD
May 14th - Theresa's - MIDDLETON

I have received a few suggestions for the collective bargaining committee to look at in preparation for the next collective bargaining cycle. The committee is currently looking at employee expenses (mileage, meals etc.) and expects to meet with the commonwealth to open negotiations in November or December 2013. Please make sure that you pass your suggestions along if you'd like them considered by the committee!

The Legislative Committee has had lengthy discussions with the BOD regarding the endorsement of candidates for US Legislature. There are some that feel that we should only endorse candidates for state elected positions. We cannot donate money to the campaigns of US Legislature candidates but in the past we have endorse candidates and send out mailings to our members on their behalf. Please let me know how you folks feel about this issue so that I can best represent you in these discussions.

House Bill 59 has been postponed for a few months. The initial intent of the Governor was to have this amendment passed before the budget cycle began but the pushback from labor unions has pushed this back a bit. This change to our health care benefits when we retire impacts 60% of MOSES members! Please look at the language in the bill and the exceptions and let me or Bridget know if you'd like to participate with testifying at hearings regarding this bill. If you haven't done so already please also contact your elected representatives to make sure they know how you feel about this bill. The message that is being broadcast by MOSES is that while we acknowledge that some changes need to be made to reach sustainability with this system the bill as written goes too far. The full plan by the MOSES leadership is to 1) oppose the bill and get YOUR help to contact your representatives, 2) push for the commonwealth to do what they should have been doing all along - fund the health care liability, and 3) try to get state workers distinguished from the municipal liability which is a totally different creature.

Another important component of the MOSES legislative package this session includes a bill that would require ALL inspections for construction, materials and transportation to be performed to MOSES member rather than outsource to consultants. If you have information that may be helpful to outline savings that would result from this work being brought in house since this is the angle that MOSES is hoping to take with this legislation please contact Bridget!

A third important bill filed in this legislative cycle that is near and dear to MOSES members is relative to OSHA standards for state employees who are currently exempt from these protections. If you have been injured on the job or whose job or work environment would be changed by this legislation please contact Bridget!

The public relations committee is interested in hearing your stories to include on the website and get the word out to the legislature about the good work you do everyday on behalf of the commonwealth. Check out the MOSES website for current stories and let Colleen Turner know if you have something from your experiences to share.

I have a correction from last month's email. The operating expenses for the health and welfare reimbursement plan is actually approx 3.7% for plan administration and less than 1% investment management fees.

Its open enrollment season! Your benefit decision guide should be forthcoming but you can check out information on the GIC website here: <http://www.mass.gov/anf/docs/gic/bdgs/bdgactive2013.pdf> . Check out a health fair for more information: <http://www.mass.gov/anf/employee-insurance-and-retirement-benefits/benefit-enrollment/gic-health-fair-schedule.html> . One other issue that the GIC is dealing with to try and reduce the cost of health care is facility fees in teaching hospitals. Currently facility fees are getting wrapped into insurance claims and GIC is trying to exert pressure to stop this practice through insurance carriers. Insurance carriers have indicated that their hands are tied and so the GIC is working toward a legislative solution.

If you are interested in volunteering your time to help encourage young people to get involved in science and engineering consider either the State Science Fair upcoming in the beginning of May or be an Ambassador in the DIGITS program. 10% of DIGITS volunteers last year were MOSES members! Both programs are approved through the State Employees Responding as Volunteers (SERV) program where you can use one day per month (with supervisor approval) to work at a non-profit. You can find more information about the Mass Science Fair (<http://www.massscifair.com/judges/default.aspx>), the DIGITS program (<http://digits.us.com/>) and the SERV program

(<http://www.mass.gov/anf/employment-equal-access-disability/employee-prog-and-training/serv/>) if you are interested.

Let me know if you have any questions or would like any additional information about any of this. Thanks for reading!

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